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Wisconsin.—On October 28 it was stated that the situation in southern Wisconsin was clearing up, but that the disease was expected to spread further in the northern part of the State. Exclusive of Milwaukee, 3,379 cases were reported for the week ended October 19 and 4,109 (six days) for the following week. Milwaukee's figures were 2,117 and 2,056, respectively. Deaths in Milwaukee were reported as 65 for the week ended October 19 and 139 for the following week.

Wyoming.—It was reported on October 23 that the epidemic appeared to be subsiding except in districts recently invaded.

RESERVE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 63 (65th Cong., 2d sess.), To establish a reserve of the Public Health Service.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of securing a reserve for duty in the Public Health Service in time of national emergency there shall be organized, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, under such rules and regulations as the President shall prescribe, a reserve of the Public Health Service. The President alone shall be authorized to appoint and commission as officers in the said reserve such citizens as, upon examination prescribed by the President, shall be found physically, mentally, and morally qualified to hold such commissions, and said commissions shall be in force for a period of five years, unless sooner terminated in the discretion of the President, but commission in said reserve shall not exempt the holder from military or naval service:

Provided, That the officers commissioned under this act, none of whom shall have rank above that of Assistant Surgeon General, shall be distributed in the several grades in the same proportion as now obtains among the commissioned medical officers of the United States Public Health Service, and shall at all times be subject to call to active duty by the Surgeon General, and when on such active duty shall receive the same pay and allowances as are now provided by law and regulation for the commissioned medical officers in the said regular commissioned Medical Corps. (Approved Oct. 27, 1918.)

For some time it has been felt that the United States Public Health Service should have at its disposal a permanent reserve, on which it could draw in time of emergency such as that presented by the present epidemic of influenza. Moreover, it seemed desirable to provide for the commissioning, as reserve officers in the Public Health Service, of men whose work through experience gained in other fields would be of great service to the Federal health authorities.

With the numerous demands made on the Public Health Service during the present epidemic, attention was again called to a joint resolution (S. J. Res. 63) pending in Congress since June, 1917. In the form reproduced herewith this resolution was agreed to by the House

of Representatives on October 18 and by the Senate on October 21. It was formally approved by the President on October 27, 1918.

By far the larger part of the reserve to be organized under this act will be on active duty only during times of national emergency, though it will probably be necessary to establish periodic terms of training, so as to better fit the officers for such service. With the passing of the emergency these men will automatically go on the inactive list; always, however, subject to call to active duty by the Surgeon General. Detailed plans for the organization, training, and assignment of the reserve officers are now under consideration.

VACCINES AGAINST INFLUENZA.

In view of the exaggerated and in some respects misleading statements that have appeared in the public press regarding the value of bacterial vaccines in the prevention and treatment of influenza and the pneumonias which so often complicate it, the following statement is made:

The evidence that has been presented thus far does not warrant the reposing of confidence in any influenza vaccine for either prophylactic or therapeutic purposes.

Several vaccine preparations made of the influenza bacillus, some from streptococci, some from various types of pneumococci and other organisms have been recommended and used in various localities, and evidence has been advanced which has been held to show that the number of persons attacked has been less and the deaths fewer among the vaccinated than among those who had not been treated. When, however, this evidence has been carefully analyzed it has been found that either there was no indication of protective or therapeutic value or there was no more than a suggestion that possibly some protection had been conferred.

At present it can be said that vaccines may be used in a purely experimental way and pains should be taken to collect data on the incidence of the disease among both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated.

GUARDING AGAINST PNEUMONIA BY VACCINATION.

Health officers will be interested in the following memorandum just issued to officers, enlisted men, and employees in the War Department.

"1. Vaccination against pneumonia has been given in two Army camps. At Camp Upton during the 10 weeks from the period of vaccination until the troops went overseas, no cases of pneumonia